

Hi

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the proposed Marine Park for the Rottneest Trench. I am a keen fisherman who uses the Rottneest trench primarily for a chance at catching a Marlin(Blue, Black or striped) when the Leeuwin current brings warm water and a myriad of Pelagic fish to the area in Summer and early Autumn some years.

As you may or may not be aware Pelagic fish such as billfish move with the oceanic currents as baitfish and other organisms provide them with a rich food source. By drawing a rectangle on a map and painting it green is not affording any level of protection to these Pelagic fish at all.

I urge you to reconsider the zoning of this marine park so that trolling for Pelagic fish is allowed. It will have no adverse effect on the protection of demersal fish and other species within the area. It is one of very few areas that Game Fisherman in the Southern half of Western Australia have any reasonable chance of catching a marlin and I believe that excluding that type of fishing from this area will be of no environmental gain whatsoever.

I would also like to emphasise the fact that 99.9% of billfish are released by recreational Game Fisherman. This is in stark contrast to the broader Indian Ocean where Japanese Longliners are taking increasing amounts of billfish at unsustainable levels. Perhaps more attention could be paid to areas further offshore.

Kind Regards

James Morton